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The prospect of an armistice in Korea has evoked varying responses in the Far East. In Korea, despite the protestations of both North and South Korean leaders that Korea should be unified at all costs, the great majority of the populace in both sections would undoubtedly welcome an armistice. Moreover, the South Korean Foreign Minister approached the American Ambassador on 3 April to raise the subject of a bilateral defense pact with the United States, possibly as a price for agreeing to an armistice that would leave Korea divided. North Korea is probably seeking a similar arrangement with Moscow or Peiping.

The Chinese Nationalists are disturbed by the possibility that recent developments will lead to an over-all discussion of Far East problems, including the status of Formosa and the two Chinese governments. They fear that an armistice might lead to the withdrawal of American protection from Formosa, might additionally increase the threat to the island by freeing seasoned Communist troops from Korea for operations elsewhere, and might end their hopes for returning to the mainland with American support.

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[REDACTED]

In Southeast Asia, the latest phase of the Communist "peace offensive" has not been reflected by any changes. For more than a year most of the Communist movements in this area have slackened their military activities as a result of effective local counteraction and apparently in accord with the regional Communist program which since mid-1951 has been placing greater emphasis on political rather than military forms of action.

Indochina, has remained the exception to this program. So far there is no evidence that the new Communist proposal, or a resulting armistice in Korea, will be reflected in Viet Minh tactics. A Viet Minh offensive, for which preparations were completed over two weeks ago, has not yet been launched,

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[REDACTED] There is, as yet, no indication that the Viet Minh offensive has been postponed, in line with the current "peace offensive."

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